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Walla Walla District

News Release

News Release 07-66

Contact: Public Affairs Office

Date: July 2, 2007

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Corps warns: diving dangerous, not allowed at Dworshak Dam and Reservoir

AHSAHKA, Idaho – Dworshak Dam and Reservoir recreation officials strongly discourage visitors from cliff diving, or jumping from cliffhines, rock ledges or structures into lakes, rivers or reservoirs.

Changing water levels and submerged hazards can make diving extremely dangerous. Although it looks like fun, there is a high potential for serious injury or fatality.

“The reservoir behind the dam is managed for multiple operational purposes – the water levels can fluctuate hourly – sometimes just a few inches difference in depth can result in a diver impacting a submerged hazard. Of great concern are the individuals jumping and/or diving off of the cliffs and island at the Big Eddy Beach area” said Paul Pence, Natural Resource Manager at Dworshak. “Continued violations of the “No Jumping and Diving” policy can result in a written citation.”

Because of the high potential for injury, Corps policy prohibits cliff diving and/or jumping regardless of the height of the cliff feature to the water surface. Diving, jumping or swinging from trees, bridges or other structures which cross or are adjacent to Corps-managed lakes and rivers is also not allowed.

“Fatalities and critical injuries sustained from cliff jumping and diving occur more often than most people realize,” Pence added. “Even if the water is deep and you go in feet first, the speed of falling can be great enough to cause spinal compression, bone fractures or concussions. Landing even slightly off center can be deadly.”

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